



U.S. Department of Justice

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TO ALLEGED VICTIMS OF BLAKE A. PRATER

Re: U.S. v. Blake A. Prater - Docket No. 3:06CR001 (JBA); USAO No. 2003R00495

On January 4, 2006, a federal grand jury sitting in Hartford, Connecticut, returned an 18-count sealed Indictment charging **BLAKE A. PRATER**, a resident of Guilford, Connecticut, with securities fraud, mail fraud, and money laundering. The Indictment was ordered unsealed on January 11, 2006.

The indictment alleges that defendant **BLAKE A. PRATER** was formerly President and Director of Wellspring Capital Group, Inc., a company not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") as an investment company, investment advisor, or broker dealer; neither was the company registered with the National Association of Securities Dealers ("NASD"). The indictment alleges, among other things, that beginning in or about September 2002, and continuing until in or about September 2003, **BLAKE A. PRATER**, by use of means and instruments of interstate commerce, in the offer and sale of securities, (1) employed a device, scheme, and artifice to defraud, (2) obtained money and property by means of untrue statements of material facts and omissions to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made not misleading, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, and (3) engaged in transactions, practices, and courses of business that operated as a fraud and deceit upon the purchasers of these securities.

On January 13, 2006, Blake A. Prater will be arraigned before the Honorable Joan G. Margolis, at the Federal Courthouse, 141 Church Street, New Haven, Connecticut, at 10:45 a.m. This is a public proceeding, and you are welcome to attend.

In cases which involve a significant number of victims, the most effective way to get timely notice to victims is through our Website. This case has been identified as a "Multi-Victim Prosecution," and therefore all future correspondence will be through our office Website at www.usdoj.gov/usao/ct/multi-victim-updates.html (Please use lower case letters). For a copy of the indictment, please go to the press release section of our website, located at www.usdoj.gov/usao/ct.

In addition, you are welcome to call the United States Attorney's Office's toll-free number at 1-888-645-5807 to provide us with your contact information and any other information you wish. You may also choose to provide us with an email address and contact information by contacting our email at usact.vns@usdoj.gov. Please note that due to the extremely large number of victims involved in this case, we are unable to respond individually to

messages submitted via the phone line or email address.